

TRAVERSE

Before responding to the restriction requirement, Applicants note that the present application includes 19 claims therein. However, the Restriction refers to only 18 claims in the Office Action Summary sheet and on page 2 of the Detailed Action portion of the restriction. The Examiner is respectfully requested to confirm that the present application contains 19 claims therein, as represented by the original filing of the application and a Preliminary Amendment filed concurrently with the filing of the application.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's restriction requirement.

According to M.P.E.P. §1893.03(d), when making a lack of unity of invention requirement, the Examiner must (1) list the different groups of claims and (2) explain why each group lacks unity with each other group (i.e., why there is no single general inventive concept) specifically describing the unique special technical feature in each group. Applicants submit that the Examiner has failed to specifically describe the unique special technical feature in each group to explain why each group lacks unity with each other group, as specified in requirement (2) above. Instead, the Examiner merely states that "The species are as follows: A **single specific** species of drive unit (e.g., claims 2, 3, and 5)." Applicants submit that the Examiner has failed to specifically list the different groups of claims, and additionally, fails to explain why each group lacks unity with each other group.

Applicants submit that such action by the Examiner fails to comply with the "specifically describing" requirement set forth in M.P.E.P. §1893.03(d).

M.P.E.P. §1893.03(d) also specifies that a group of inventions will be considered to be linked to form a single inventive concept where there is a technical relationship among the inventions that involves at least one common corresponding special technical

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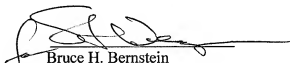
feature. In this regard, as noted above, claims 1, 2, 4, and 6-19 are elected. Thus, should the restriction requirement be maintained, only claims 3 and 5 will be withdrawn. However, Applicants submit that the withdrawn claims are directed to at least one common corresponding special technical feature, as each of the withdrawn claims are dependent claims that further clarify features recited in independent claim 1.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that all the claims in the application are linked to form a single inventive concept, and thus, all the claims should be examined. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the restriction requirement and examine all the pending claims.

Applicants further note that it does not appear that a restriction was set forth in International Application No. PCT/JP2004/004724, which is the International Application from which the present U.S. National Stage application is based. Accordingly, Applicants submit that at least one International Examiner considered the issue of lack of unity and concluded that the claims are so linked as to form a single inventive concept. Accordingly, Applicants submit that an additional ground exists for concluding that the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request the restriction requirement be reconsidered and withdrawn. Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
Tetsurou NAKAMURA et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

Steven Wegman
Reg. No. 31,438